

Rattlesnake Fire

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Office hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Incident: A lightning-caused wildland fire, which started near Shepp Ranch on 7/13/2007.

Location: Twenty-five miles south of Elk City, ID along the Salmon River.

Jurisdiction: Nez Perce National Forest

Cooperating Agencies: Idaho County Sheriff's Office, Idaho County Disaster Coordinator, and Dixie Vol. Fire Dept.

Incident Commander: Mark Grant, Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team (IMT). The Incident Command Post is located at the old Red River Ranger Station.

Current Size: 97,500 acres

Containment: 25%

Yesterday's Activity: Decrease in acreage is due to more accurate infra-red (IR) and Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping. The fire was smoldering, creeping and backing in isolated areas along the perimeter, with isolated tree torching and group tree torching. A helicopter dropped water in the area of Mammoth Mountain south of Dixie to cool hot spots.

Structure and community protection is complete in the threatened communities. Fire crews remain in place to maintain and monitor structure protection and pump operations. The towns of Dixie and Orogrande remain under a pre-evacuation notice. The community of Comstock remains under a voluntary evacuation notice. Fire crews have completed structure protection at ranches in the Salmon River corridor and remain in place to monitor fire progress.

Current Resources: The number of firefighters on the incident is **214**. Resources assigned include **one** crew, **three** helicopters, **one** dozer, **eighteen** engines and **three** water tenders.

Today's Strategy: Crews will continue to run sprinkler and pump systems and monitor community protection efforts around all communities. Crews will utilize "spike" camps in the Orogrande area, decreasing travel time to the fire and increasing efficiency of firefighting operations. Firefighters will continue to hold the Whitewater area to keep the fire from moving further to the east and will remain in place along the Salmon River for structure protection as needed. Fire managers are working with the local agency to develop a rehabilitation plan for suppression efforts.

The weather forecast calls for a warming and drying trend, with critical fire weather conditions predicted for Monday.

Stage I Fire Restrictions are in place on the Nez Perce Forest. Campfires are restricted to designated recreation sites. Smoking is restricted to vehicles, buildings and areas void of vegetation.

For further information, visit: www.inciweb.org; Select "Rattlesnake"

Rattlesnake Fire Related Information

Community Meetings: Public meetings will continue to be held at the Dixie Community Center every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 3:15 p.m. in order to keep area residents informed of fire progression and activity. Fire officials plan to hold another public meeting in the community of Orogrande on Saturday, September 1, at 3:00 p.m.

Fire Acreage Reporting: The Concord Fire acres are included with the Rattlesnake acres for administrative reporting purposes. All future acres will be reported under the Rattlesnake Fire.

Rattlesnake Fire Area Closure: The Nez Perce National Forest has a Special Area Closure to encompass both the Concord and Rattlesnake fires. This closure restricts access into portions the Gospel Hump Wilderness, as well as the Orogrande and Dixie areas. The closure is described as follows:

Beginning at the junction of State Highway 14 and Forest Service development road # 1875 (Blue Ridge Road) (section 34, Township 28 North, Range 6 East) traveling easterly but not including State Highway 14 to the junction of Forest Service Road #222 (Dixie Road), then south and east along Road #222, but not including Road #222 to the junction of Road #468 (Nez Perce Trail Road), then east along Road #468 but NOT including Road #468 to Sabe Saddle, then south along Sabe Creek to the Salmon River.

Following along the Salmon River, downstream (west) to Wind River Bridge; then north and northeast along the boundary of the Gospel Hump Wilderness to the junction with trail #414 near the head of Twenty-Mile Creek; then northerly along and including trail #414 to the junction of Road #492 (Santiam Sourdough); then easterly, and including Road #492 to the junction of Road #9829 near Rainy Day Point; then northerly along Roads #9829, #9824, and #1875, and including Roads #9829, #9824, #1875 to the junction with State Highway 14, the point of beginning. The Gospel Road (FS Road #444) is also closed.

For further information or details of the area closure, contact the Red River Ranger District @ 208-842-2245.

Salmon River Corridor: The Main Salmon River corridor will be re-opened from Salmon Falls to Vinegar Creek for recreational boating. Launches from Corn Creek on the Mail Salomon River will be allowed starting at 8:00 a.m. for permitted outfitters and individual boaters with permits. Access to the Salmon River Road downriver from the Cove Creek Bridge is being restricted to 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. daily. For further information, contact Kent Fuellenbach @ 208-756-5145.

Restrictions: The Nez Perce National Forest remains under Stage I Fire Restrictions.